

The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

Congratulations on your appointment to Chair the FCC. In your new leadership role, I urge you to support the "Fair Share Plan" as a solution to current concerns with the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Fair Share Plan will keep the USF fair, ensuring that consumers like me do not pay the same rate into the USF as big businesses, regardless of how little I may use long distance.

We live in Vermont and my community is considered rural so we appreciate any funding that helps our little community to have better phone service. I am disabled and have a terminal illness and because I've been bed-ridden for 6 years and am on oxygen all the time. Because of our vast medical bills, we don't have ANY extra money. My husband just got hurt, and he's 60, and has been told he needs surgery that will involve his right arm and he will be disabled for awhile. This isn't whining this is letting you know what life is like, and not just here in Vermont. Everyone we know is struggling to make ends meet. We all have problems but this bill would add another problem that we don't need. We don't live in a wealthy community with high payscales, we just have the higher utility bills and our cost of living is not cheap due to the influx of second home urbanites leaving their cities to enjoy our clean air etc. This bill would add another hardship.

The Keep USF Fair Coalition submitted the Fair Share Plan to the FCC on January 31, 2005. It expands who pays into the USF so that other technologies - not just phones - pay into the system. The Fair Share Plan collects the USF using a combination numbers- and revenue-based plan. This keeps the system fair, equitable and non-discriminatory.

Under the flat fee or numbers-based plan you are considering, people like me who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. I believe it would be unfair to charge low-volume and residential customers the same fees as high-volume residential or business customers.

I urge you to keep the USF fair, and adopt the Fair Share Plan. Thank you, and best of luck in your new position.

cc: Marlene Dortch, Secretary

Sincerely,

Diane Murray
34 Deepwood Drive
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-7996
cc:
Senator Patrick Leahy

Senator Jim Jeffords
Representative Bernie Sanders